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TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST

British Royal Geographical Society said to be Contemplating Ambitious Expedition.

Enormous interest has been aroused by the announcement that the Royal Geographical society contemplates fitting out an expedition to attempt the ascent of Mount Everest, in the Himalayas. For not only is this the highest mountain on the globe; but it is also the world's mystery mountain.

Although it was discovered 70 years ago, no European has yet succeeded in getting anywhere nearer than about fifty miles to it, much less setting foot on its slopes.

This is because it so happens that it is situated partly in Nepal and partly in Tibet, and the governments of both these countries object to the presence of European explorers.

Besides this the Nepal base of the giant mountain is in any case practically unapproachable, owing to the dense jungle growth, extending for a width of 60 or 70 miles all round, and into whose depths no white man may venture and live.

The proposal now is to attempt the ascent from the Tibetan side. This is doubtless possible, but whether the summit can be reached or not is another matter.

Most experts say not, and point to the fact that the duke of Abruzzi's attempt to scale Mount Godwin-Austin, Everest's mighty neighbor, and the second highest peak in the world, resulted in failure.

He ascended as far 24,000 feet, but was then obliged to turn back, owing to the difficulty of breathing, due to the extreme rarefaction of the air. Mount Everest is more than 29,000 feet high.

ANCIENT HARPS OF IRELAND

Two Instruments, Each Having a Distinct Purpose, Were in Use in Olden Times.

The ancient Irish harp was of two kinds—a small instrument used chiefly for religious purposes, first by the old Druids in their rites, and later by the Christian bishops and abbots. The other harp was large, and was used in public assemblies and in battles.

The bagpipes were introduced into Ireland from Caledonia. They had the same use in the Irish armies they now have in the Highland regiments. But the Irish made, in the course of time, an improvement, using bellows to fill the chanter, instead of the mouth, and continued improving the instrument until the union-pipes of today are the result.

As to early Irish harpers and their music there is little known, but at Queen Elizabeth's court, Irish tunes were popular. Of late huge books of ancient Irish melodies have been collected and arranged. Petrie has attracted attention to this field by his thorough investigation of Irish folk music.

India Ink Really Chinese Ink.

The intensely black inks have various sorts of finely divided carbon as their pigment, and the vehicle in most instances is some type of oil or varnish. India ink is the name often applied to what is in reality Chinese ink. The best of this variety comes from the Anhui province and is made from the lamp black produced when wood oil is slowly burned in one earthenware vessel and the soot or lamp black produced is collected on the sides of a second jar placed above the first. A paste is made with varnish and pork fat and this is then mixed with glue. Some ink is made from the soot of sesame or rapeseed oil, but in any case the paste is pressed into molds. There are, of course, many grades of this ink, the lower being made from the coarser soot and glue. In 1918 the Chinese exported 127,000 pounds of this ink.—Scientific American Monthly.

Literature of the Czechs.

Czechic literature has voluminous and impressive accomplishments to show. Take, for example, Bohemia's three great writers of the nineteenth century, Dobrovsky, Jungmann and Palacky. Jungmann compiled a dictionary of the Czech language in five volumes, Palacky wrote a work of 20,000 pages on Czechic history, and Dobrovsky wrote a grammar of Czechic. The most indefatigable writer, however, was Jaroslav Vrchlicky. He translated Dante's "Divine Comedy," Ariosto's "Orlando Furioso," Calderon, "Faust," Walt Whitman, as well as works from French, Hebrew, Yiddish and Chinese. No one knows how he found the time to do it. Among the leading Czech writers of the present, Frana Sramek, Toman Kodicek, the Capek brothers and Theer rank high.—New York Evening Post.

Before and After.

"Before and after pictures," said an opera singer at a Philadelphia musical, "afford some very striking contrasts. This is especially true of before and after pictures of marriage." "A man sat with pipe and book and an \$18 bottle of hooch before the radiator one night while his wife turned a three-year-old dress." "The man laid down his book and tossed off his fifth drink of hooch. His wife looked up at him calmly, and said: "George, when you proposed to me you said you were not worthy to undo the latches of my shoes." "George stared at her in amazement." "Well, what of it?" he snarled. "Nothing," she answered; "only I still say for you that whatever else you were, you weren't a liar."

Explanation Briefly Made.

Harold Knutson, Republican whip of the house, tells a yarn about an old fellow up in his country who has a job carrying the mail from the depot to the postoffice, for all of which he gets \$1 a trip.

Some of the boys around the grocery store the other night got to kidding the old chap about his job and, eventually, they asked him how much he made out of it.

"I make \$1 a trip, three trips a day, \$125 a month, or \$3,000 a year," he said.

These figures not sounding just right, one of the boys sought to pin him down on his calculations.

"How do you make \$3,000 a year?" he asked.

"A carryin' the mail," responded the carrier, and with those few words he departed.

Saturday Change.

Many storekeepers begin their Saturdays by shopping in the neighborhood for small change—dimes, nickels, and pennies. Seven customers out of ten at the butcher's, baker's and grocer's on Saturday pay for their purchases with \$10 and \$5 bills. Not one in twenty counts out the exact amount.

One storekeeper has found that \$50 in subsidiary coins is none too little to carry him through.

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Cat Evidently Was Offended.

A yellow cat called Shimmy, of no particular breed, but lately a cherished mascot of the Aberdeen (Wash.) fire department, left her home there suddenly. Shimmy, according to the fire laddies, who hunted three days without success for their vanished pet, made her nest in a coil of hose which is used to wash the floor of the fire hall. On the morn of Shimmy's disappearance a careless fireman turned the water into the coil. Shimmy was catapulted toward the ceiling and shot by the stream of water into the street. The cat has not yet come back.

Entertained the Archangel.

English Paper—It is interesting to remember that in the audience on that occasion were Dante, Gabriel, Rossetti and Algernon Charles Swinburne.—Boston Transcript.

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